



News Release

United States Department of
Agriculture - Forest Service

Plumas National Forest
P. O. Box 11500
Quincy, California 95971

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contacts: Michele Jimenez-Holtz (530) 283-7744

Lee Anne Schramel Taylor (530) 283-7850

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Butte Fire Complex Restoration

Beginning October 19, the Plumas National Forest will begin a helicopter mulching operation as part of the restoration activities scheduled for 793 acres of national forest system land within the Butte Fire Complex in the Concow area. The operation will continue through October 31, weather permitting.

The process of “heli-mulching” involves a helicopter dropping straw (rice in this instance) on severely burned sites to help protect and stabilize soil from the impacts of rain and potential erosion. Helicopters are being used because the rehabilitation area is remote with no access for ground vehicles.

The Butte Fire Complex, a result of late June lightning, burned heavily in the vicinity of Concow, an area with steep sloping hillsides. Weed-free straw is specially chosen to prevent the spread of invasive plant species in the restoration area.

The heli-mulching operation can be viewed from the Vista Point on the northwest side of Hwy 70, approximately 3 miles north of the bridge along Hwy 70, and 3.5 miles southwest of Jarbo Gap.

Forest visitors should expect brief traffic delays of 15 to 20 minutes on County Road 52515A (Concow Road) and Forest Service Road 23N06 (Rim Road), while the helicopter passes over the road with sling loads of straw. Recreationists and those utilizing firewood permits may be impacted by intermittent closures in that area. Access into the area will be monitored and closed to entry during the drops for public safety purposes.

For more information, contact Mike August, Feather River Ranger District, (530) 534-6500.

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Key points:

- 1) Expect up to 20 minute traffic delays on both the Concow and Rim Roads beginning October 19 through October 31, with a possible change in dates depending on weather.**
- 2) For more information, contact the Feather River Ranger District, (530) 534-6500.**